GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

EFS & T Dept., - Non-forestry use of 1.25 ha of forest land for laying underground OFC along the roads between "Koyyalagudem – Kannapuram – Gogumilli-Urrinka-Ravigudem" route in the Eluru Forest Division in favour of M/s. Bharti Airtel Ltd (erstwhile Telesonic Networks Ltd), Hyderabad - Permission accorded – Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 73 Dated: 08-12-2025

Read the following:-

1. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-15O26/4/2O24/FCA-SEC/PCCF/FCA-3, dated 12.05.2024.
2. Govt.Letter.No.968/Section-II/2024/2434868,dated 18.07.2024.
3. From GoI, MoEF & CC, IRO, Vijayawada, Online Proposal No.FP/AP/OFC/446675/2023, dated 03.03.2025.
4. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-15026/4/2024/ FCA-SEC/PCCF/FCA-3, dated 02.07.2025.
5. Govt. Letter No.968/Section.II/2024/2434868, dated 20.07.2025.
6. From the GoI, MoEF&CC, Online Proposal No.FP/AP/OFC/446675/2023, dated 27.11.2025.

<<0>>

ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has submitted a proposal seeking approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for diversion of 1.25 ha of forest area for laying underground OFC along the roads between "Koyyalagudem – Kannapuram – Gogumilli-Urrinka-Ravigudem" route in the Eluru Forest Division in favour of M/s. Bharti Airtel Ltd (erstwhile Telesonic Networks Ltd), Hyderabad.

2. In the letter 2nd read above, the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., was sent to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Sub-office at Vijayawada of the Regional Office, for in-principle approval under Section-2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

3. In the letter 3rd read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Sub-office at Vijayawada of the Regional Office, has accorded in-principle approval under Section 2(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for diversion of 1.25 ha of forest area for laying underground OFC along the roads between "Koyyalagudem – Kannapuram – Gogumilli-Urrinka-Ravigudem" route in the Eluru Forest Division in favour of M/s. Bharti Airtel Ltd (erstwhile Telesonic Networks Ltd), Hyderabad and has requested to submit the compliance report on the conditions stipulated therein within the prescribed time for final approval.

4. In the letter 4th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., has furnished a compliance report on the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval for onward submission to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Sub-office at Vijayawada

of the Regional Office, for final approval for the above proposal. The same has been forwarded to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Sub-office at Vijayawada of the Regional Office, for the grant of final approval under Section 2(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, vide letter in the 5th read above.

5. In the letter 6th read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Sub-office at Vijayawada of the Regional Office, has granted final approval under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for non-forestry use of 1.25 ha of forest area for laying underground OFC along the roads between “Koyyalagudem – Kannapuram – Gogumilli-Urrinka-Ravigudem” route in the Eluru Forest Division in favour of M/s.Bharti Airtel Ltd., Eluru Division, West Godavari District subject to fulfilment of conditions stipulated therein.

6. Government, after careful examination of the proposal, hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, for non-forestry use of 1.25 ha of forest area for laying underground OFC along the roads between “Koyyalagudem – Kannapuram – Gogumilli-Urrinka-Ravigudem” route in the Eluru Forest Division in favour of M/s.Bharti Airtel Ltd., Eluru Division, West Godavari District subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:-

1. **General Conditions:**

S.No.	Conditions
1.1	Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
1.2	No labour camp shall be established on the forest land
1.3	The User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas
1.4	The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal
1.5	The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government
1.6	The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government
1.7	No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused
1.8	The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
1.9	No additional or new paths will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
1.10	The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 1.25 ha.
1.11	The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forest in the surrounding area.
1.12	The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government and Regional Office by the end of March every year.
1.13	The user agency shall comply with all the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

1.14	The conditions required to be adhered under the Forests Right Act, 2006 as per the rules/guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be strictly complied with.
1.15	Any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest and Wildlife.
1.16	Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed under the Act, Rules and Guidelines relevant.

2. Standard Conditions

S.No.	Conditions
2.1	N/A

3. Specific Conditions

S.No.	Conditions
3.1	Compensatory Afforestation(CA) shall be raised over 2.50 ha of degraded forest land identified in Comp No 200 & 201 of Rama Singavaram Forest Block, Eluru Section as per the scheme was approved by the State Forest Department with the cost realised from User Agency.
3.2	The User Agency shall provide CA in NFL area for compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest area diverted, if applicable, based on the final outcome in the WP No. 1164/2023, which is currently pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The State Forest Department shall ensure that an undertaking from the user agency is obtained in this regard.
3.3	The User Agency has made payment Rs. 68,06,634/- towards CA, and NPV (Rs.9,82,000/-towards CA, Rs. 19,94,738 /- towards NPV, and Rs.38,29,896/- as Penal NPV) The levies paid by the UA shall be utilized for the same as per the approved plan/scheme.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

KANTILAL DANDE
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri, Guntur District.

Copy to:

1.The Inspector General of Forests,
ROHQ, MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi – 110 003.
2. The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),
GoI, MoEF&CC, Sub-office at Vijayawada of
Regional Office, Chennai, Green House Complex,
Gopal Reddy Road, Vijayawada – 520 010.
3. M/s. Bharti Airtel Ltd (erstwhile Telesonic Networks Ltd), Hyderabad.
4. SC/SF (Computer No. 2434868)

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER